Claim Listing

The following listing of claims, if entered, replaces all previous versions of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for maintaining a unique session ID in a network,~~ comprising:

    creating a unique session identifier <u>for a user, wherein</u>

        <u>the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network</u>

            <u>access servers</u>; and

    providing the unique session identifier to [[a]] <u>an Authentication, Authorization, and</u>

        <u>Accounting (AAA)</u> ~~software~~ module ~~that provides for performing authentication,~~

        <u>wherein</u>

        <u>each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from</u>

            <u>the AAA module.</u>

2. (Currently Amended) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:

<u>the</u> creating [[a]] <u>the</u> unique session identifier further comprises appending a unique

        identifier ~~associated with an access server~~ to a local session identifier<u>,</u>

<u>the unique identifier is associated with one of the network access servers, and</u>

<u>the one of the network access servers generates the unique session identifier.</u>

3. (Original) The method recited in Claim 2, wherein:

the unique identifier is an IP address.

4. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

5. (Currently Amended) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:

creating a unique session identifier further comprises creating a unique session identifier

        for each of <u>the</u> ~~a plurality of~~ network access servers.

6. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a network access server, ~~the network access server being associated with a corresponding unique identifier;~~

wherein the network access server is configured to generate a <u>unique</u> ~~corresponding local~~ session identifier <u>for a user</u>; ~~and~~

<u>wherein the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network access servers,</u>

<u>wherein the plurality of network access servers include the network access server;</u>

<u>wherein the network access server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to an AAA module; and</u>

<u>wherein the AAA module performs AAA processing for each of the plurality of network access servers</u>

~~wherein the network server is further configured to generate a corresponding unique session identifier.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:

<u>the network access server is associated with</u> ~~the unique identifier is~~ an IP address<u>; and</u>

<u>the unique session identifier comprises the IP address.</u>

8. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, ~~wherein~~ <u>further comprising</u>:

the ~~network access server is one of a~~ plurality of network access servers;

<u>wherein</u> each of the plurality of network access servers is configured to generate a ~~corresponding local session identifier; and~~

~~each of the plurality of network servers is further configured to generate a~~ corresponding unique session identifier.

9. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:

an off-load server, the off-load server being coupled to receive the ~~corresponding~~ unique session identifier from the network access server.

10. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the off-load server is configured to provide the ~~corresponding~~ unique session identifier to <u>the AAA module</u> ~~a software module that is configured to perform accounting processing.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the off-load server is configured to provide the ~~corresponding~~ unique session identifier to

~~a software~~ the AAA module, and

the AAA module ~~that~~ is configured to perform port counting.

12. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:

~~a software module that is configured to perform~~ the AAA module ~~authentication~~, the

AAA ~~software~~ module being further configured to receive the ~~corresponding~~

unique session identifier from the network access server.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:

the network access server is further configured to generate the ~~corresponding~~ unique

session identifier by appending an ~~the unique~~ IP address of the network access

server ~~with~~ to a ~~the~~ local session identifier.

14. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the off-load server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server

being further configured to associate the start record with the ~~corresponding~~

unique session identifier; and

the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to the AAA ~~a software~~

module that provides for performing accounting processing.

15. (Currently Amended) The system recited in Claim 9, further wherein:

the off-load server is further configured to generate a stop record, the off-load server

being further configured to associate the stop record with the ~~corresponding~~

unique session identifier; and

the off-load server is further configured to provide the stop record to the AAA ~~a software~~

module that provides for performing accounting processing.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein

the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network

access servers; and

- 4 -

means for providing the unique session identifier to <u>an AAA</u> ~~a software~~-module ~~that~~

~~provides for performing authentication,~~ <u>wherein</u>

<u>each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from</u>

<u>the AAA module.</u>

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:

means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for appending a

unique identifier associated with <u>a network</u> ~~the~~ access server to a local session

identifier.

18. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 17 wherein:

the unique identifier is an IP address.

19. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, further comprising:

means for providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:

means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for creating a

unique session identifier for each of <u>the</u> ~~a plurality of~~ network access devices.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, encoded in computer readable

media, comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to create a unique

session identifier <u>for a user, wherein</u>

<u>the unique session identifier is unique with respect to a plurality of network</u>

<u>access servers</u>; and

a second set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to provide the

unique session identifier to <u>an AAA</u> ~~a software~~ module ~~that provides for~~

~~performing authentication,~~ <u>wherein</u>

<u>each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA processing from</u>

<u>the AAA module.</u>

Serial No.: 10/032,628

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

    the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to append a unique identifier associated with ~~an access server~~ <u>one of the network access servers</u> to a local session identifier.

23. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

    the unique identifier is an IP address.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, further comprising:

    a <u>third</u> ~~second~~ set of instructions, executable on a computer system configured to provide the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable media, wherein:

    the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to create a unique session identifier for each of <u>the</u> ~~a plurality of~~ network access servers.